

REMARKS

Claims 2-8, 14-18 and 23-24 are pending in this application. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application to pursue the subject matter of withdrawn claims 9-12, which have been canceled. By this Amendment, claim 2 is amended to be independent, including all the features of prior claim 1; dependent claims 3-4 are amended to depend from claim 2; independent claim 6 is amended to include all the features of prior claim 2; and claims 1 and 19-22 are cancelled. No new matter is added.

I. Allowed And Allowable Claims

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 14-18 and 23-24 are allowed.

II. The Claims Are Patentable Over The Applied References

By this Amendment, claim 2 is amended to be independent, including all the features of prior base claim 1, and independent claim 6 is amended to include all the features of prior claim 2.

A. El Hafidi '105

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 6-8 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over WO 03/049030 to El Hafidi et al. (El Hafidi '030) (the Office Action fails to cite El Hafidi '030, citing instead U.S. Patent No. 7,245,105 to El Hafidi et al. (El Hafidi '105)). The rejection is moot with respect to canceled claims 1 and 19-12, and is respectfully traversed with respect to the remaining claims.

Regarding independent claim 2, El Hafidi '105 fails to disclose "the major axis of the elongated beam shape of the reference beam is coincident with an outer diameter of a beam shape of the object beam" (emphasis added). Regarding independent claim 6, El Hafidi '105 fails to disclose "a major axis of the elongated shape of the reference beam is coincident with

an outer diameter of a beam shape of the object beam" (emphasis added), as similarly recited in claim 2.

El Hafidi '105 discloses a petabyte diffractive memory recording system 100 having beam splitter 129 (Fig. 3). In operation, an object beam 118 and reference beam 130 are generated (*id.*).

The Office Action rejects claim 2 over El Hafidi '105, alleging that El Hafidi '105 discloses the claimed feature in Fig. 3. However, El Hafidi '105 discloses in Fig. 3 that it is the minor axis of the elongated beam shape of the reference beam that is coincident with an outer diameter of the object beam. Thus, El Hafidi '105 fails to anticipate independent claims 2 and 6 or their dependent claims.

Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

B. Wilson In View Of King

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0067639 to Wilson et al. (Wilson) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,721,076 to King et al. (King). The rejection is moot with respect to canceled claims 1 and 19-22 and is respectfully traversed with respect to the remaining claims.

Regarding independent claim 2, Wilson fails to disclose "the major axis of the elongated beam shape of the reference beam is coincident with an outer diameter of a beam shape of the object beam" (emphasis added). Regarding independent claim 6, Wilson fails to disclose "a major axis of the elongated shape of the reference beam is coincident with an outer diameter of a beam shape of the object beam" (emphasis added), as similarly recited in claim 2.

Wilson discloses an apparatus for recording holograms that, in operation, generates signal beam 9 and reference beam 11, reference beam 11 producing reference beam spot 14 on medium 13 (Fig. 1).

While the Office Action cites to Wilson, Fig. 1, as disclosing the feature of claim 2, Fig. 1 clearly shows that reference beam 11 produces reference beam spot 14, which is elongated, having both a minor axis and a major axis that is not coincident with an outer diameter of an object beam (signal beam 9). King, cited as disclosing features of claims other than claim 2, fails to cure the deficiencies of Wilson. Accordingly, independent claims 2 and 6, along with their dependent claims, are patentable.

Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: December 9, 2008

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